

out operation, but will not admit that they are "cured." Without disputing as to the term, it seems to me that restriction to bed and a fluid diet form an efficient treatment, and, with the addition of opium, the most efficient. If he has a case of enteric fever he does not prescribe rest and attention to diet, but absolute confinement to bed, with a rigidly restricted diet; and he meets with unceasing vigilance each danger as it arises. When his patient recovers has he not been successfully treated?—I am, etc.,

Brook Street, W., Aug. 19th.

P. H. PYE-SMITH.

SIR,—In the correspondence under the above heading in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL it is stated that "the great majority of cases were recognized and cured without operation, both in hospital and private practice, during the period between 1860 and 1882." Owing to the King having suffered from appendicitis it has gained great prominence. It is not uncommon, and I venture to think that the great majority of cases are still recognized and cured in the first and second attacks, without operation, in private practice. For instance, I took charge of a young man suffering from a relapse of appendicitis. He had come home for convalescence, but a second attack soon supervened. There was great pain and tenderness, and considerable dullness in the right iliac fossa, extending chiefly in an upward direction. There was a slight reddening of the skin here, and great distension of the abdomen. His pulse was quick, likewise the breathing, and his temperature ranged from 102° to 104°. There was also vomiting. It was as bad a case as any I had seen. I adopted the following treatment, and seeing an improvement at once taking place, I determined to persevere with the medicinal line of treatment. I gave him antipyrin (gr.x) once a day, and a mixture containing sodium bicarbonate (gr.xx), spirit. ammon. aromat. (3ss), and liq. morph. hydroch. (3ss) every four hours. Poultices of linseed meal, with olive oil mixed (at first goose grease) were applied to the abdomen every four hours. Nothing was given except soda-water and milk, and sometimes a little beef-tea, also brandy; no other diet until his temperature had remained normal for several days, for on one occasion he took a little solid food and his temperature kept up for two or three days. His bowels were left costive for two or three days, when castor-oil was given. It did not need much, as the olive oil used externally had a good effect. For some time after getting up there was still a little tenderness and hardness to be felt upon pressure in the right iliac region, and this was treated with a mixture of tinct. bellad. and tinct. iodi externally. A nourishing light diet, and then solid food was given, and he has worn a flannel binder, and has taken continually since then Hunyadi Janos mineral water, and after returning to his former laborious occupation he has no complaint whatever. Two cases since of a milder type I have similarly treated. They take Hunyadi Janos water, and are always well whenever I meet them.

This treatment of my own I can commend to any one having similar cases, upon which they do not decide to operate, as a medicinal treatment.—I am, etc.,

Glandovey, Aug. 12th.

OWEN WILLIAMS.

#### THE IMPERIAL VACCINATION LEAGUE.

SIR,—Yet another league formed; which proposes to legislate, or at all events manoeuvre with a view to legislation upon a subject connected with our professional work! The very disastrous results of an alliance between certain doctors and a collection of lay people, possessing in reality the views of socialists, are at the present moment with us. Will nothing short of the municipalization of medical assistance and hospitals teach the members of our profession the real danger which lies in our path. The margin between the condition of management of our affairs by lay committee assisted by eminent medical personages and that of the conduct of our affairs by the State or local authorities is indeed faint. I venture, therefore, to express a hope that no league in future which contains a lay element, whether male or female, will receive the support of the profession as a whole.

Midwifery has been handed over to the tender mercies of a mixed committee. Diseases such as leprosy and tuberculosis are from time to time boomed by leagues. The ordinary infective diseases are already treated at the ratepayers'

expense. It appears therefore very evident to me that Socialism has marked down our professional work as its first spoil. A stand was made against the Midwives Institute and its allies, and a stand must be made against every league or movement which tends to remove the management of our affairs from our own hands. So long as we continue to show our willingness to allow our own affairs to be managed by mixed committees or leagues we are simply playing the cards which Socialists wish to see played.—I am, etc.,

August 19th.

LOVELL DRAGE.

SIR,—Those who have been connected with hospitals for children will probably agree that many cases, chiefly of skin disease, come under notice where the troubles are attributed by the parents to vaccination. It certainly seems probable that the care which must be observed in order to prevent such troubles has not been attended to and in the way it ought, by those to whom vaccination has been entrusted. Purity of lymph and protection from infection are of great importance in vaccination, and this certainly was appreciated by Edward Jenner. What the "Conscience Clause" may be as far as sentiment or politics are concerned is of very little importance to those who deal with facts—that is, with truth—as opposed to error. If the Imperial Vaccination League is going to do any good, it will not be by opposing antivaccinationism on sentimental or political grounds. It is only fair to the antivaccinationists to admit that they have some grounds for their objections and not treat them as unreasonable fanatics, dangerous to themselves and others. The antivaccinationists, poor creatures, "would rather bear those ills" they "have than fly to others that" they "know not of," and "thus conscience doth make cowards of" them "all."—I am, etc.,

London, W., Aug. 18th.

ROBERT LEE.

#### REGISTERED PRACTITIONERS AS PUBLIC VACCINATORS.

SIR,—I wish to bring to the notice of the profession the amendment which I intended to move on August 1st in the Ethical Section of the annual meeting of the British Medical Association to the resolution of Dr. Owen, which was:

That, in the opinion of this meeting, seeing that vaccination is made compulsory in the interests of the public health, the parent or guardian of a child should have the right to select any registered medical practitioner who is willing to do so to perform the vaccination, and that the cost of the same should be defrayed by the State at a fixed rate, provided always that the work so done should reach the standard aimed at by the Local Government Board in the case of public vaccinators, and that no work falling short of this standard should be accepted for the purpose of public remuneration.

My amendment was:

Seeing that, in the interests of the public health, vaccination has been made compulsory, it is the opinion of this meeting that all vaccination should be in the hands of the medical officer of health for the district, who should not be allowed private practice, and whose appointment should be in the hands of a central authority and whose remuneration should be paid by the State.

I intended to move this amendment, because I am afraid that Dr. Owen and the supporters of his idea, which is ideal in theory, fail to see the difficulties in carrying it out in practice. The whole difficulty, and that to my mind an insuperable one, is that of inspection, which if every practitioner were to become a public vaccinator would be far too lengthy and costly an affair. To my mind the only solution is the one I am advocating, which will avoid all friction between medical men, and will ensure efficient vaccination from the highest to the lowest. Many are apt to demur to the State paying for vaccination, as it will mean an increase in the rates. But I maintain that there is only one shrine at which we must offer up our devotions, and it is at that of "efficient vaccination." The reason I could not move this amendment was the fact that the meeting was full of public vaccinators, who rose like a flock of starlings as soon as a speaker drew to the conclusion of his speech, and when at last my turn came the meeting was brought to a close, as time had expired under the standing orders.—I am, etc.,

Accrington, Aug. 6th.

ELWIN H. T. NASH.

#### THE VACCINATION INQUIRER.

SIR,—I beg to call your attention to a grave error that has been made in the Special Vaccination Number of the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL of July 5th, 1902, where on p. 50, in an

article headed "Antivaccination Propaganda and its Antidote," the following passage occurs:

The *Vaccination Inquirer*, which had been started by Mr. W. Tebb in 1879, was adopted as the organ of the Society which was fortunate in securing the services of Mr. W. Young, whose enthusiasm in the cause he had been led to advocate was unlimited, and who added to a perfect knowledge of his subject, from his own point of view, an astuteness in controversy which has scarcely been equalled by some of the highly competent pupils who have obtained their knowledge from his writings.

Mr. W. Young was at no time editor of the *Vaccination Inquirer*, that honour having been conferred on the late William White from its commencement in 1879 till his death in 1890. During that period he also wrote "The Story of a Great Delusion," now long out of print, "Sir John Playfair Taken to Pieces and Disposed of; likewise Sir Charles W. Dilke," etc.

As the widow of the late William White I therefore venture to ask you to retract the above error and to give his name and memory the justice to which he was so honourably entitled, and which, by common consent, he so well deserved.—I am, etc.,

August 13th.

HELEN WHITE.

\* \* We regret that Mrs. White should think that we have done any injustice to her late husband. But if she will read the passage to which she takes objection carefully she will see that she has misread it. There is no statement that Mr. Young was at any time editor of the *Vaccination Inquirer*, but simply that that periodical was started by Mr. Tebb and adopted subsequently as the organ of the Antivaccination Society, which, about the same time, enlisted the services of Mr. Young as its Secretary. We are well acquainted with Mr. White's long connexion with the *Inquirer* and with his works, to which Mrs. White refers, and, if it is any satisfaction to her, we are glad to express our appreciation of the great ability with which Mr. White conducted that journal, though we regret that this ability was not devoted to a more useful object.

#### THE TREATMENT OF CONSUMPTION IN THE NAVY.

SIR,—Now that it is a well recognized fact that pulmonary tuberculosis is a curable disease, is it not time that some steps were taken to carry out the appropriate treatment of early cases of phthisis in what is probably the largest naval hospital in the world—I refer to Haslar Hospital?

I have recently had a painful experience which goes to prove that what few facilities do exist at the above hospital are either disregarded or are rendered useless by "routine" or "red tape." A near relative of mine, who is a naval officer, was detained at Haslar for nearly three weeks pending their Lordships' pleasure in considering an application for leave (not an unusual one) in order that he might undergo the necessary treatment at his own expense, and during that time all the good that had been gained in the previous three weeks under suitable conditions was lost, as shown by a return of night sweats, evening pyrexia, increased cough, etc. Instead of being allowed in the grounds for as many hours as possible, the policeman on duty locks the gates leading to the airing grounds at sunset (about 8 p.m. at present), and patients must go to their rooms, not to be out of them again until after the visit of the medical officer next morning, about 10 a.m. The room in this case was very far from one's idea of what is necessary; certainly there were three windows in it, but they were of such a construction that the lower sash could not be raised more than 1½ ft., so that fresh air was practically a minus quantity for fourteen hours out of each twenty-four, and if meal times be taken from the remainder it is clear that nine hours only, at the most, can be spent out of doors, not taking into consideration such occasions as their Lordships' inspection, when everybody had to be indoors one hour and a-half, as "the Lords of the Admiralty are coming and might want to see you," and the Director-General's inspection when the same happens, both of which events occurred during the above period.

As regards the diet, for the first three or four days it consisted of, at breakfast, bread and butter two whole slices, a boiled egg and half a-pint of milk; at dinner, the routine half a chicken with potatoes and cabbage, and a rice pudding; at tea, the same as breakfast; at supper, beef-tea. Four ounces of whisky were allowed in addition. One must admit that there was a variation ordered on complaint being made, but it seems somewhat unnecessary that a phthisical patient should

have to suggest a change from the above, which would be monotonous—to say the least of it—to a person in good health. The capricious appetite of a consumptive subject requires something different from a daily half a chicken and stiff rice pudding, not to mention a little daintiness in the manner of serving.

Now, these being the conditions for officers, I fear that they are still more unfavourable for men, especially as these latter are unable to undergo treatment at their own expense; and I submit that it is nothing short of scandalous that proper facilities are not provided for the treatment of these cases, or that there is not some one in the medical department bold enough to break through this ever-present "routine," especially where the lives of officers and men are so nearly concerned. If the authorities cannot find it within their duty to carry out these reforms, at least one should be permitted to undertake the requisite treatment at one's own expense with as little delay as possible, as would willingly have been done in this case. Where every day is a matter of the most vital importance in attacking the tubercle bacillus, it is to the last degree unfortunate that time should be absolutely wasted by allowing the necessary papers to remain in office for three or four days before being forwarded, and by other means equally characteristic of Government offices.—I am, etc.,

July 29th.

G. M.

#### POLITICAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PROFESSION.

SIR,—At the recent Manchester meeting Sir Victor Horsley condemned a suggestion of mine, originally made by Sir Walter Foster, that if the profession wishes to exert political influence, it must be prepared to vote for that party which is willing to support its interests. Sir Victor stigmatized this policy as "conspiring" with a political party, and I am not prepared to deny the verbal accuracy of the criticism: but I regret to say that my ethical conceptions fail to see the wickedness of such a conspiracy. How have important reforms in the State been brought about in the past, except by the "conspiring" of reformers with one or other of the political parties? If we as medical reformers consider certain legislation necessary for our own welfare, and that of the public, it seems to me our duty to make use of all political means the State has placed in our hands to attain the desired ends. In condemning conciliation, in which every principle is abandoned, Sir Victor said, that for proper conciliation it was necessary to have force behind you. I am quite unable to see how force can be obtained politically, unless ordinary political methods are to be adopted in our organization.

I can quite understand the attitude of those, who are never tired of reiterating that we are professional gentlemen, whose sole business it is to advance science, cure our patients, and have nothing to do with party politics, or trades-unionism. But the upholders of these doctrines are not likely to be keen on political organization: they are mostly well-to-do practitioners, perfectly contented, and happy themselves, who are only surprised that the rest of their brethren are not equally contented.

What I want to know, Sir, is where the value of any political organization comes in, if we are not prepared to vote solid, when occasion demands? If to "conspire" with one or other political party is unworthy of our profession, then why waste time on political organization?

Mr. Whitaker also condemned this "conspiring," but he said he thought there might be occasions, when a practitioner would rightly vote against his party, when the medical principle was all-important. This was rather an important admission, for it would seem to permit to individuals, whose opinion at the best might be faulty, and whose votes of little importance, a discretion denied to the organized body of the profession, whose votes might have a commanding influence. If Mr. Whitaker can conceive times when individual practitioners may conscientiously vote against their own party, that is, "conspire" with the other party, it is inconceivable to me why a political organization of the profession should not be permitted to act in an equally conscientious manner. It is absurd to suppose we shall influence either party in the State by showing them a strong organization, when both parties know beforehand that politically its arms are tied. The moral force it will exert with the Government will be neither more nor less than that hitherto exerted by the